

**HUMOR IN YAKOV SMIRNOFF’S EXPRESSIONS
IN STAND-UP COMEDY: AN ANALYSIS OF
“AMERICA: WHAT A COUNTRY!”**

SKRIPSI



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**Diajukan untuk Memenuhi Salah Satu Syarat Memperoleh Gelar
SARJANA PENDIDIKAN**

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Skripsi ini telah diuji dan dinyatakan sah oleh Panitia Ujian Tingkat Sarjana (S-1) Fakultas Keguruan dan Ilmu Pendidikan Universitas Muhammadiyah Surabaya sebagai salah satu syarat memperoleh gelar Sarjana Kependidikan.

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Menyatakan dengan sebenarnya bahwa skripsi (tugas akhir) yang saya tulis ini benar-benar merupakan hasil karya saya sendiri, bukan merupakan pengambil alihan, tulisan atau pikiran orang lain yang saya akui sebagai hasil tulisan atau pikiran saya sendiri.

Apabila dikemudian hari terbukti atau dapat dibuktikan bahwa skripsi ini hasil jiplakan, maka saya bersedia menerima sanksi atau perbuatan tersebut sesuai perlakuan yang berlaku.

Surabaya, 3 Juni 2013

Yang membuat pernyataan,

Siti Mariyam

And which favors of God will you deny?

(QS: Ar-Rahman: 24)

I dedicate this thesis to:

The greatest and beloved lady of mine, mom, Mrs. Arum

A man of action, my father, Mr. Mislán Harianto

And also my gem, family

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ABSTRACT

The title of the thesis is **Humor in Yakov Smirnoff's Expressions in Stand-up Comedy: an Analysis of "America: What a Country!"**

Humor turns up in every human's daily life. Humor is like a filter of human's mind. It is easy to find humor in funny stuff like funny situation, funny stories, and even funny thoughts. For example, funny situation in stand-up comedy of Yakov Smirnoff titled "America: What a Country!" which is related to verbal humor. Yakov, in his jokes, exactly has his own style to express the humor itself. Since, this research is conducted by descriptive qualitative method, this research analyzes which figurative expressions of joke telling Yakov Smirnoff follows and how Yakov uses those figurative expressions to reveal humor in his stand-up comedy in the form of words, phrase and sentence; those analyses are not in the form of number. After doing the analysis, that all of the statements of the problems are answered is concluded. Yakov Smirnoff's expressions are revealed by producing satire, polysemy, homophone (pun), hyperbole and simile. It is found that satire is frequently used in Yakov's Stand-up comedy. Pun follows it rather frequently too. Kind of puns used is lookalike pun (polysemy) and soundalike pun (homophone). Then, hyperbole and simile also play their role in that script. Those are kinds of stylistic devices which are briefly explained in stylistics. Moreover, Yakov mostly used those figurative expressions to tease Russia. In this case is the event or the situation in Russia. Yakov did it in front of the capitalist country like America. He did it by comparing almost all events and situations in America which are closely different with Russian's activities. Yakov Smirnoff exposes silliness, foolishness or stupidity of Russia through ridicule to America (as the hearer). He also exposes his stupidity of English used in front of the native speaker like America. Some of figurative expressions used are done by using one-line joke and switch trigger. Both of them are frequently found in verbal humor. So this is the reason why his figurative expressions reveal humor in Yakov Smirnoff's stand-up comedy. In brief, stand-up comedy by titled "America: What a Country!" mostly attacks Russian's events and situations by comparing it with America's behavior in their daily life. Meanwhile, this comedy talks about mocking or ridicule of Yakov Smirnoff to his own country, in this case is Russia which well known as Iron Country. He, in addition, shows the different things between people usually do in communist country and capitalist country.

Keywords: Humor, Verbal Humor, Stylistics, Figurative Expression

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE PAGE	
LEMBAR PERSETUJUAN.....	ii
LEMBAR PENGESAHAN.....	iii
PERNYATAAN KEASLIAN TULISAN.....	iv
MOTTO.....	v
DEDICATION SHEET.....	vi
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	vii
ABSTRACT	ix
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	x
CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 The Background of he Research.....	1
1.2 The Statement of the Problems.....	11
1.3 The Purposes of the Research.....	11
1.4 The Significance of the Research.....	12
1.5 The Scope and Limitation.....	13
1.6 Definitions of Related Terms	14
1.7 Organization of the Research	15
CHAPTER II: REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE.....	16
2.1 Review of the Main Theories.....	16
2.1.1 Humor.....	16
2.1.1.1 Definition.....	17
2.1.1.2 Kinds of Verbal Humor	19
2.1.1.2.1 Pun	19
2.1.1.2.1.1 Soundalike pun	20

	2.1.1.2.1.2 Lookalike puns	21
	2.1.1.2.1.3 Close-Sounding puns	21
	2.1.1.2.1.4 Texting puns	22
	2.1.1.2.2 Innuendo/Double Entendres	22
	2.1.1.2.3 Malapropism	22
	2.1.1.2.4 Spoonerism	23
	2.1.1.2.5 Mixed Metaphor	23
	2.1.1.2.6 Joke	23
	2.1.1.2.7 Extended or Running Gag	25
	2.1.1.2.8 Shaggy-dog story	25
	2.1.1.2.9 Parody	25
	2.1.1.2.10 Satire	26
	2.1.1.2.11 Irony	26
	2.1.1.2.12 Understatement	28
	2.1.1.2.13 Overstatement	28
	2.1.1.2.14 Statement of the Obvious	29
	2.1.1.2.15 Exclusive Humor	29
	2.1.1.2.16 Absurdity	29
2.1.2	Incongruity Theory.....	30
	2.1.2.1 Semantic Ambiguity	31
	2.1.2.1.1 Lexical Ambiguity	32
	2.1.2.1.2 Grammatical Ambiguity	33
2.1.3	Stylistics	33
	2.1.3.1 Stylistic Devices (Figurative Language)	34
	2.1.3.1.1 Simile	35
	2.1.3.1.2 Metaphor	35

2.1.3.1.3 Personification	38
2.1.3.1.4 Hyperbole	38
2.1.4 The General Theory of Verbal Humor.....	39
2.2 Review of Supporting Theory	42
2.2.1 One Liner Joke	42
2.2.2 Semantic Script-Switch Triggers	42
2.3 Review of the Previous Studies	43
2.3.1 Research done by Barid Nazih El-Fikri (2012)	43
2.3.2 Research done by Irenne Stephanie Pranoto (2010)	44
CHAPTER III: METHOD OF RESEARCH.....	46
3.1 The Nature of the Research.....	46
3.2 The Source of the Data	47
3.3 The Selection of the Data.....	48
3.4 The Data.....	48
3.5 The Steps of the Data Analysis	48
CHAPTER IV: ANALYSIS	54
4.1 Findings	54
Joke 1	54
Joke 2	56
Joke 3	58
Joke 4	59
Joke 5	60
Joke 6	61
Joke 7	62

Joke 8	63
Joke 9	65
Joke 10	66
Joke 11	67
Joke 12	68
Joke 13	69
Joke 14	70
Joke 15	72
Joke 16	73
4.2 Discussions	74
CHAPTER V: CONCLUSION.....	77
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	79
APPENDIX I	xiv

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